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UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 87, No. 27

WKU Student Affairs

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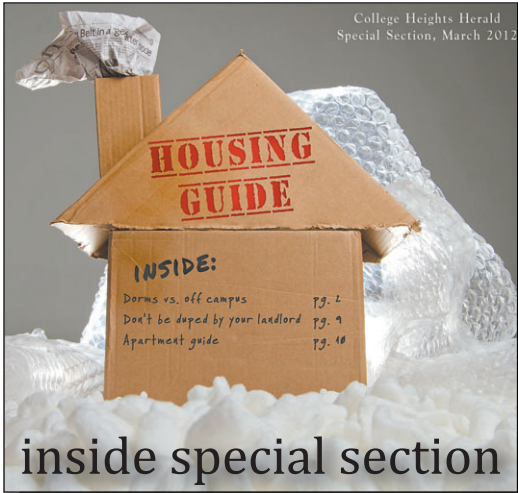


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Dulcie Clark was a housemother to Shirley Holland and Vera Guthrie at the rock house at WKU in 1950. The Rock House is set to be demolished by either spring or summer break.

COOPER BURTON/HERALD

Co-workers reflect on member of McCormack family

By MICHAEL MCKAY
news@wkuherald.com

When WKU alumnus Spencer Wills got his first room as a music educator for Bristow Elementary, he put a lot of effort into the way it looked.

Wills graduated from WKU in May with a Bachelor of Music Education degree and started work at Bristow Elementary in August.

“He spent two days organizing it and arranging it,” said Jennifer Markin, coordinator for Student Services at WKU and a friend of Wills. “He took pictures of it and came and showed me. He was really so proud of his classroom.”

Wills died last Wednesday. Dewayne Lawrence, Warren County Deputy Coroner, said the cause of death is still being investigated at this time.



SPENCER WILLS

SEE WILLS, PAGE 3

SGA to offer 175 transcript vouchers through program

By TAYLOR HARRISON
news@wkuherald.com

Students applying to graduate schools, jobs or internships will now have the chance to save a few bucks on copies of their academic transcripts.

Official transcripts are currently \$7 each. Student Government Association has set aside \$1,225 in general Senate funding for transcript vouchers. Students will be allowed up to two vouchers — or two free copies of their transcript — each. There will be 175 vouchers available this semester.

SGA members worked with the Office of the Registrar — where students purchase transcripts — to get the transcript voucher pilot program started.

Registrar Freida Eggleton said SGA worked with their office to ensure a smooth implementation.

“I think it’s a wonderful service that SGA is providing to the students,” Eggleton said.

Cory Dodds, director of Information Technology for SGA and an author on the bill, said he hopes the program will become an SGA staple, like the free Scantrons and blue books they currently give out.

SEE VOUCHERS, PAGE 3

ROCK SOLID MEMORIES

Alum remembers life in the Rock House

By CAMERON KOCH
news@wkuherald.com

The Rock House served many purposes throughout its roughly 100-year life, but perhaps it will be most affectionately remembered as a women’s dormitory at a time when WKU was still Western Kentucky State Teacher’s College.

Shirley Holland, now 80 years old, remembers her years at the Rock House fondly. Holland arrived at the college in 1950 to pursue a career in teaching physical education.

“Back then I was a foreign student,” Holland said, joking about going to school so far from her Pennsylvania home. “You came here to become a teacher if you were a woman. If you were a man, you could aspire to be a lawyer or a doctor or some other profession.”

Upon her arrival in Bowling Green, Holland

said she knew she never wanted to live anywhere else.

“My husband swears I only married him so I could stay here,” Holland said.

Holland still lives in Bowling Green and is still married to James Holland, whom she met while at WKU.

“It kills me to know they are going to tear it down. I knew they were going to do it. They weren’t taking care of it.”

Though she loves it now, Holland’s first impressions of the house were less than remarkable.

“I thought, ‘Oh, this is a dreary place to live,’ but it wasn’t,” Holland said.

She would go on to live in the house for all of her four years at Western, enjoying the small home atmosphere of the building.

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 3

Honors fraternity says Joplin is home away from home

By TESSA DUVALL
news@wkuherald.com

He’s said it once, and he’ll say it again.

“What’s my favorite quote? ‘There will be a Joplin Run for as long as Joplin needs us to run,’” said David Serafini, adviser of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity at WKU.

Serafini, along with 11 members of PSP and one other WKU student, traveled to Joplin, Mo., to help with recovery efforts on March 3 until March 7 for Joplin Run III, the organization’s third trip to the town.

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado destroyed much of Joplin, leaving behind more than \$2 billion worth of damage and killing 162 people. PSP members made their first trip in June and returned during fall break in October.

Serafini said the group helped with demolition efforts and debris removal this trip, but he could see a difference in Joplin’s recovery since the last trip, with more houses being built and businesses returning.

Although helping people was rewarding, Serafini said the highlight of the trip was undoubtedly meeting Mark Norton, the father of PSP honorary brother, Will Norton.

Will Norton, an 18-year-old graduate of Joplin High School, was killed during the tornado that struck Joplin on his graduation

day. Norton was driving home from the ceremony with his father when they were caught in the storm. His father survived, but Norton’s body wasn’t found until several days later in a nearby pond, just blocks from his home.

It’s because of Norton’s story that Serafini first organized a trip to Joplin to help with rebuilding efforts. On previous trips, the PSP group has met Tracey Presslor, Norton’s aunt, and Keegan Tinney, his best friend. In November, Norton was inducted into PSP as an honorary brother of the fraternity.

Mark Norton met with the WKU group in Cunningham Park — a park built by Extreme Makeover Home Edition near the remains of St. John’s Hospital — to receive his son’s membership pin and certificate from PSP.

“Here we are meeting with Will’s father and we’re in the shadow of this,” Serafini said. “Your heart comes up into your throat a little bit.”

Serafini said Norton was very appreciative and gracious.

“He knew who we were and he knew what we had been doing, and he was very honored,” he said.

With each trip to Joplin, Serafini said he feels closer to Will Norton and his story.

Chris Storath, a Hendersonville, Tenn., sophomore and PSP brother, agrees.



JABIN BOTSFORD/HERALD

WKU freshman DJ McDonald, 19, from La Grange, Ky., helps knock out a chunk of wall Saturday afternoon off Montana Place in Joplin, Mo. WKU students and volunteers had to gut the house to the frame so it could be rebuilt.

“I don’t know why I feel this way about some kid I didn’t even know, but for some reason I just have so much grievance for this kid,” he said. “It’s the whole reason we go to Joplin.”

Storath has attended every Joplin Run, and plans on going back for the fourth trip,

which is tentatively scheduled to overlap with the one-year anniversary of the tornado. He also plans to take part in the memorial 5K in Joplin on May 19, if possible.

SEE JOPLIN, PAGE 3



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a thousand words

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DOROTHY EDWARDS



DOROTHY EDWARDS/HERALD

WKU senior Rachel McDivitt of Lexington looks at T-shirts on display in The Clothesline Project during the Healthy Days event in the Preston Center on Feb. 28. The Clothesline Project is as a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Clothesline Project is put on every year by Hope Harbor, Bowling Green's rape crisis center, as a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in March. The project was displayed during Healthy Days in Preston Center on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

"To me personally, to see people come by and read the shirts, it's empowering," said Jessica Mattingly, a Hope Harbor community educator, from Fairview, Tenn.

The project is a visual display that bears witness to the survivors and victims of violence against women, as well as an outlet to help with the healing process for the women. Each shirt on the clothesline is decorated to represent a particular survivor's experience.

"We are trying to raise awareness to show WKU students that it's OK to talk about this issue," Mattingly said. "And it's a great way

to show students they do have a voice."

Some students walked by the display without noticing it, while others stopped and read every shirt along the clothesline.

"It's crazy that this happens to people and you don't realize it does," Lexington senior Rachel McDivitt said. That was the first time McDivitt had seen The Clothesline Project.

The Clothesline Project is the first of many events put on by Hope Harbor for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"It's prevalent on a college campus," Bowling Green senior Tessa Seidler said. "Rape affects any age or gender."

Seidler previously volunteered at Hope Harbor and is familiar with the project. She said she likes seeing the display every year.

"It's important to expose especially college students to this issue. Rape happens all the time," she said.

CORRECTION

Due to a Herald error, the amount of money to be given out in student research grants was incorrectly identified as \$500,000 in an article on the first page in the March 2 issue of the Herald. The correct amount is \$50,000.

The Herald regrets the error.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@wkuherald.com.

CRIME REPORTS

Reports

■ Junior Jenna Hall, Scottsville, and two other female students left a hot plate on, causing a fire alarm to activate in Room 142 of the Fine Arts Center on March 10. There was no fire or property damage.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

A Class Act

Cowles leaves Lady Topper program with remarkable grace

THE ISSUE: Mary Taylor Cowles was fired after 10 seasons as the Lady Topper head coach on Friday, March 8. In her final season, the Lady Toppers finished 9-21.

OUR STANCE: The day after she was fired, Cowles released a statement that ended with, "Once a Hilltopper, always a Hilltopper." After ending her career in such an unfortunate way, it's great to see her still remain positive and appreciative of WKU.

The Lady Toppers finished the 2011-2012 season with a historic milestone — their first 20-loss season in program history.

In addition to this embarrassing low, the Lady Toppers had 15 games in the past two seasons with less than 950 fans in home attendance and averaged a little over 1,000 fans in home attendance for this past season.

There was a general consensus from many Lady Topper fans that something needed to be done, that a 20-loss season is unacceptable with the Lady Toppers' winning history.

So, in a move that is unprecedented in most athletic programs, WKU fired its second head basketball coach this season. This time Mary Cowles was on the losing end.

Cowles leaves behind a multiple decades of experience with the Lady Topper program.

She was a Lady Topper from 1988-1991, during which time she scored more than 1,000 points and played as a member of three Sun Belt Championship teams.

After six years as an assistant coach at WKU, she coached the Lady Toppers for 10 years as their head coach. All of this cumulates to more than 20 years associated with WKU and a lot of time spent and connections made on the Hill.

With Cowles' personal and professional ties to WKU, many can agree that the decision for the athletic administration to end her career was one they didn't decide on easily.

Athletics Director Ross Bjork acknowledged the decision to fire Cowles as "difficult" given Cowles' history with WKU.

This does not overlook the fact that the Lady Topper basketball program was in need of a desperate change. In sports, Cowles running a "first-class program" as Bjork called it, does not equate to job security. Coaches are hired to win games, and Cowles simply wasn't winning enough of them. And personal ties must be forsaken when it comes to professional decisions.

However, Cowles' exit, though not ideal, could not have been done in a more dignified and respectful manner on her part.

Despite the emotions she was feeling at the time, Cowles gracefully said she would always be a Hilltopper.

She thanked WKU for the years of experience she gained and showed her appreciation for the faculty and staff at the school. She also acknowledged the friendships she formed and how happy she was to be part of the Lady Topper program.

It took former men's coach

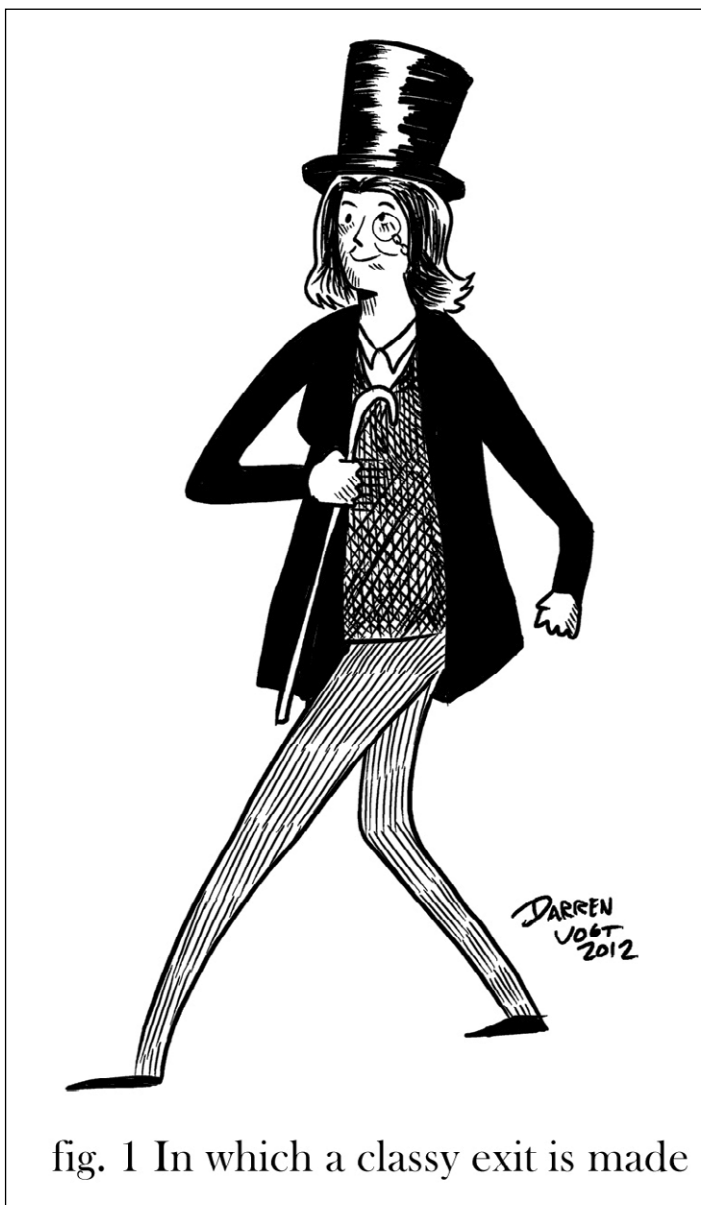


fig. 1 In which a classy exit is made

Ken McDonald nearly two weeks to release a statement.

Knowing her association to the university, one can argue it was very hard to release a statement so soon and to remain positive and graceful the way she did.

The Herald commends

Cowles for leaving WKU in such a classy manner, and we wish her all the best moving forward.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

people POLL

How do you feel about WKU being in the NCAA Tournament?



AMELIA HARWELL
Tony, Ala.
sophomore

"I'm super excited for it. This is my first year at Western, so I'm just happy to have a college team to cheer for."



Barrett Wright
Glasgow
junior

"I'm actually excited for it. I think Coach Harper was a good fit. In a time of a somewhat dead season, he got it resurrected."



BRIAN HARRIS
Russellville
sophomore

"I haven't really been into men's basketball this year. From what I've heard, they've been doing pretty good."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Roll-taking methods should be re-thought

Attendance sheets being passed around in class is a bad way to take roll. People do not pass the paper to everyone, and in the process, people are skipped over. I have had perfect attendance all semester, and there have been more than a handful of times I did not sign in when I was present. I think there needs to be a better policy on taking roll because this is an ineffective way, in my opinion.

-David Ray

Personal responsibility should be taken with social media

It is a sad commentary on the level of discourse at the university that the current "social media" controversy has devolved into "First Amendment" versus "WKU Brand." The role of personal responsibility is being ignored.

Last fall, I chanced upon a Twitter account parodying President Ransdell (PimpRansdell). My initial thought was that it was a humorous satire. However, I soon realized it was rife with appallingly racist, sexist and homophobic statements. The list of

followers was public and included individuals, e.g., cheerleaders, who represent the university.

I reported the account to the university administration because I thought someone should make students aware of the ramifications of their public behavior.

Yes, students, you do have First Amendment rights! You have a right to tweet, retweet or follow whatever you want. But you will have to bear the consequences of acting on those rights. Those consequences might include forgoing a letter of recommendation from a professor who decides your behavior reflects poor judgment and emotional immaturity.

I find it ironic that with all of the clamor about First Amendment rights, these hate-filled tweets came from an individual who chose to hide behind a parody account.

Fittingly, one of the early mutual followers of PimpRansdell was another anonymous account, KKK BG4ever. I say this is fitting, because sending racist tweets from a parody account is the electronic equivalent of donning a hood and sheet. If you really want respect, have the nerve to own what you say in public.

- Kelly Madole
Professor of Psychology,
Chair of the University Senate



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have an opinion?

Write a letter to the editor (250 words or less) or a commentary (500 words and a photo). E-mail them to opinion@wkuherald.com.

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The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters shouldn't exceed 250 words. Commentaries should be about 500 words and include a picture.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.

3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
6. Submissions must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

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FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

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TRIVIA TUESDAY

Who is performing on SkyPAC's opening night March 10th?

FIRST TO TWEET THE ANSWER TO @WKUHERALD WINS A HERALD T-SHIRT.

CHECK TWITTER THIS AFTERNOON FOR TODAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION.

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tweets from the hill

@RossBjorkAD: Looking forward to meeting & giving @barack-obama a #WKU red towel when he attends our first round game on Tuesday night! -sent 3/11

@vzollo41: crazy how I'm going to play in the NCAA tourney in the city I learned how to play the game in Then UK #blessed -sent 3/11

@Billions_Served: Jus wanted say thank you to all the fans that are behind us we really appreciate you all #TopperNation #GodisGreat #GrindTime #letseat -sent 3/11

@HilltopperSID: Each of the last 12 full-time #WKU head men's basketball coaches - now including Ray Harper - have taken teams to the NCAA Tournament. -sent 3/11

@blake_blackburn: Doesn't fill out brackets. Likes to enjoy each game for the tactics, upsets and moments. Except for #Wku and #ul. Those teams better win -sent 3/11

@realjoemathis: also deciding whether i want #WKU to win their 1st round matchup vs. Ms. Valley St. don't wanna see my 2nd fav. team get pounded by my 1st. -sent 3/11

@adamhyman91: Majoring in Bracketology for the month of March. #NCAA #WKU -sent 3/11

@StaggsKevin: The long season doesn't matter; only need a few days of good basketball to get into the national championship tournament. Congrats #WKU -sent 3/6

- ACROSS
- 1 Bart Simpson's mom
 - 6 Coats with frosting
 - 10 Arrived
 - 14 Body of water
 - 15 Orderly
 - 16 Prayer closing
 - 17 Be generous
 - 18 "Nay" voter
 - 19 Muppets ___ and Ernie
 - 20 Gritty residue
 - 22 Oriental rug edging
 - 24 Trigonometric function
 - 25 Slim
 - 26 Bathed
 - 29 ___ of the crime; felony location
 - 30 Fore and ___; stern to stern
 - 31 City in Alabama
 - 33 Furry swimmer
 - 37 Gallop or trot
 - 39 Sword fights
 - 41 Tender to the touch
 - 42 Miscalculated
 - 44 West Point student
 - 46 Fish's feature
 - 47 Low point
 - 49 Figure out
 - 51 Commanded
 - 54 Lois ___; Clark Kent's love
 - 55 Pealed
 - 56 Advertising flyer
 - 60 Sound quality
 - 61 Secondhand
 - 63 Standard car feature
 - 64 Garden of Paradise
 - 65 Apple's center
 - 66 Cruise ship stops, often
 - 67 Little fruit pie
 - 68 ___ over; flip
 - 69 City in England

- DOWN
- 1 Velvety green growth
 - 2 Hurt continually
 - 3 Peruse
 - 4 Offensively showy
 - 5 Opponents
 - 6 Ridiculous
 - 7 Penny
 - 8 Have a meal
 - 9 Squelch
 - 10 Cupboards
 - 11 Make right
 - 12 Come together
 - 13 Go into

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27 At a distance

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29 Besmirch the reputation of

32 Rational; making sense

34 Bean curd

35 Clapton or Idle

36 Mr. Auberjonois

38 Often run-down housing

40 Prius or Optima

43 Challenge

45 Thin curling plant shoot

48 Subtract

50 Lower in status

51 Group of eight

52 Valerie Harper TV role

53 Cafe

54 ___ with; bearing

56 German mister

57 Not working

58 Fibbed

59 Bereavement

62 Old French coin

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CAMPUS EVENTS

Do you have campus events you would like to be included in the 'TAKE A BREAK' calendar? Be sure to let us know! Email your events to editor@wkuherald.com

TU 13

The Clothesline Project, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, WKU Glasgow Campus, 10 a.m.

Baseball vs. Butler, Nick Denes Field, 3 p.m.

Guest Recital: Small and Yang, flute and piano, Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Softball vs. Tennessee Tech, WKU Softball Complex, 5 p.m.

W 14

Concert: U.S. Air Force Band of Flight's Huffman Prairie Winds woodwind quintet, Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, Free admission, 11:30 a.m.

Softball vs. Louisville, WKU Softball Complex, 4 p.m.

Physics and Astronomy Public Activity Evening, Thompson Complex, 7 p.m.

TH 15

FBLA Regional Conference, various campus locations, 8 am.

Clothesline Project, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, DUC, 10 a.m.

F 16

Civil War Days for area schools, Kentucky Museum, 8:30 a.m.

Bowling Green Gallery Hop, Kentucky Museum and Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center, 5 pm.

Concert: The Symphony's East Meets West, Van Meter Hall, Tickets are \$25 at door; \$22 in advance; \$5 for students with ID, 8 p.m.

SA 17

Visual Art Day For Girl Scouts, Kentucky Museum, 9 a.m.

West Kentucky Flat Shod Sale, L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center, 10 a.m.

Mid South Percussion Championship, Diddle Arena, 12 p.m.

Softball vs. South Alabama, double-header, WKU Softball Complex, 1 p.m.

Vocal Recital: Ben Goodwin (with pianist Joyce Goodwin) and Jessica Boeglin (with pianist Kimmy Stofer), Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, Free admission, 7:30 p.m.

SU 18

Mid South Percussion Championship, Diddle Arena, 9 a.m.

Softball vs. South Alabama, WKU Softball Complex, 12 p.m.

Faculty Recital: The Music of Charlie Parker by Dr. John Cipolla, saxophone, Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, Free admission, 3 p.m.

Student Recital: William Pope, Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, Free admission, 6 p.m.

M 19

Cultural Enhancement Series: Jerry Greenfield, Van Meter Hall, Free admission, 7:30 p.m.

TU 20

Baseball vs. Belmont, Nick Denes Field, 6 p.m.

Last Lecture Series: Scott Taylor, MMTH Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Performance: Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Downing University Center Auditorium, Admission is \$7, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Mark Berry, percussion, Music Hall's Choral Rehearsal Hall, Free Admission, 7:30 p.m.

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Stevens aims to be an 'advocate for students'

By SHELBY ROGERS
news@wkuherald.com

Cheryl Stevens has marked an important milestone in her career: She has survived half of her first semester as the new dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

"I'm having a good time. So far, so good," Stevens said with a laugh when she sat down with the Herald at the end of February. "Five weeks in, and no complaints."

WKU announced in October that Stevens would replace outgoing Ogden dean, Blaine Ferrell, who entered transitional retirement in December. Stevens began her term as Ogden College dean on Jan. 23.

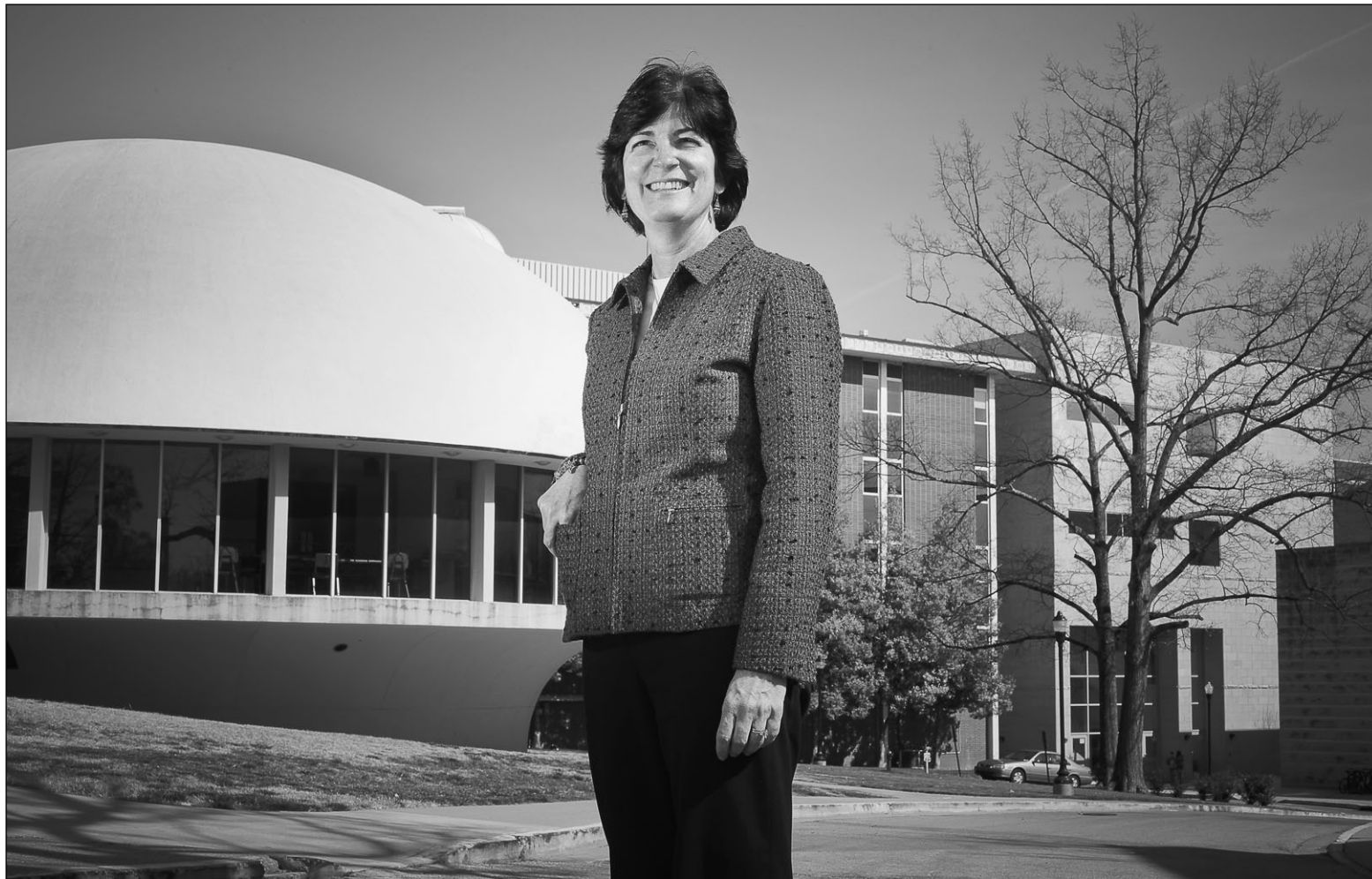
Before coming to WKU, Stevens worked for Xavier University of Louisiana, a liberal arts college with nearly 3,400 students, according to its website. She joined the chemistry faculty there in 1982, was named department chair in 2005 and was appointed associate dean in 2009.

So far in her career, she's received numerous awards and has been involved in more than \$18 million in grant-funded projects.

"I think of myself as a successful researcher and grant writer — you could even say 'prolific,'" Stevens said. "But the thing is, all of that was about students."

"You bring in this money to set up a research lab ... and the purpose of this research lab is to train students. It's all for them."

Engineering department head Julie Ellis said she's witnessed Stevens' love of students firsthand, even



JUSTIN PHILALACK/HERALD

After years as associate dean for Scholarship at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Cheryl Stevens is now the new dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering. Stevens' first day was January 23, the first day of spring semester. She has replaced Blaine Ferrell, who retired.

within Stevens' few weeks on the job.

"She's clearly an advocate for students," Ellis said. "She's made herself open and available many times."

Ellis also pointed out Stevens' inquisitive nature, particularly in learning the inner workings of the college.

"She's not afraid to say 'Tell me more. I don't know enough about this,'" Ellis said. "I am confident that she will serve us well."

Bruce Kessler, associate dean of Ogden, said Stevens' curiosity about the college began before her position

started.

"We talked quite a bit before she even started her job," he said. "She wanted to get a handle on what I did. We've had really good discussions so far."

Kessler said there aren't many differences between former dean Ferrell and Stevens, calling both "level-headed" and "really [wanting] to ask opinions of the people around them."

"She picks up on subtleties very quickly," Kessler noted. "I made newbie, freshman mistakes when I first started, and I'm im-

pressed with her ability to totally stay out of those mistakes."

Stevens said the environment at Xavier is very similar to that of WKU, which has made the transition from a small liberal arts college to a large public university easier.

"Western is a big institution, but it has this liberal-artsy kind of attitude on how you treat students," she said. "We want to give them an excellent education...We want them to be successful. That's the kind of place I came from, except it was a

lot smaller."

For Stevens, "just not knowing who to call" has been the hardest part of her transition to WKU.

"You know, you get to the point of knowing after 29-and-a-half years [at Xavier], you know exactly who to call, and here, I don't know," she said. "But I can tell you...the people all around campus have been so fantastic. Anything I need help with, there's someone to help."

Stevens felt that she "jumped in with both feet." Within her first month, she

said she's worked on hiring next year's faculty, started preparing new degree programs for Ogden College and brainstormed "big picture ideas" for the departments within Ogden.

Stevens said her main goal is "increasing student engagement."

"I see my 'big picture' goal as being an advocate for their success," she said. "I won't really see them every day, but what I'm doing is working toward an infrastructure that leads to their being educated well."

Professor helps document African language for the first time

By MONTA REINFELDE
diversions@wkuherald.com

Over two decades ago, Kpelle, the language secondary in Liberia behind English, had never been recorded. Thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Winkler, WKU associate professor of linguistics, Liberia now has the first written source of their language in its history — the Kpelle Dictionary.

Winkler started working on the Kpelle Dictionary when she was in her Doctor of Philosophy program in 1985. She said she got interested in this language in her Field Methods course after meeting a woman from Liberia, who told her that people speak in Kpelle but this language is unwritten.

"We spent many classes asking her a lot of questions about her grammar, sound system and how men and women talk to each other," Winkler said.

The creation of the Kpelle Dictionary took her three years, she said. However, it's not complete yet. The dictionary has only 4,000 words in it, compared to English that has 450,000.

"When we were creating this, we were working on family names, furniture, food, animals,

basic verbs, all kinds of things that are in basic, everyday life but not a lot of highly technical terms," she said.

Winkler has not yet visited Liberia herself. In 1985, Liberia was in the middle of a civil war. However, she said, she's planning to visit within the next year.

"I had an access to a lot of native speakers who were in the U.S.," she said. "It was very easy to work with them that way."

Winkler is currently working on a project that includes two parts. The first one is creating the online Kpelle Dictionary, and the second one is expanding the current hard copy of the document.

"We want the dictionary to be something simple that is affordable for people in the country where it is going to be used," she said.

The computer engineer and native Liberian, Peter Curran, 54, who is currently living in Chicago, is one of the people helping Winkler with her project. For now, he's overseeing the e-learning or the online Kpelle Dictionary.

"The Kpelle Dictionary will start early education in Kpelle for native children and even-

tually integrate English as the children get higher in school," he said. "This bilingual method of education is very effective because at least 90-percent of the children don't have an English-speaking parent."



DR. ELIZABETH WINKLER
WKU Associate Professor of Linguistics

Winkler said she agrees that most of the world is bilingual. But it is not a big deal, especially in Africa where people are bilingual or even trilingual and don't think of it as a handicap.

"Some people in the U.S. have the idea if you come to the U.S., you should give up whoever you are and join the melting pot and give up your languages," she said.

On the contrary, Winkler said she believes Americans need other languages here to be able to compete or col-

laborate with countries throughout the world.

"It is not a benefit for us to be monolingual," she said.

Another advantage of having the Kpelle Dictionary, especially an online version, is that it requires fewer physical instructors and the access is immediate.

Curran said videos and the Internet may be used to get to students in very remote villages, as well as the rest of the world.

With the help of the internet, people "would have it much easier to start learning Kpelle online immediately," he said.

A Gatton Academy student, William Roach-Barrette from Frenchburg, is also collaborating with Winkler on her project. He said he's responsible for finding a way to convert an old Microsoft Word file to a modern day Microsoft Word processor.

Roach-Barrette said he has never dealt with such a problem before. However, he's eager to learn a new skill and use his current computer skills to do something productive.

"The creation of this dictionary has the potential to help millions of people," Roach-Barrette said.

BREAK

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Thomas, who has a team-high 24 RBI and is second on the team with six home runs, said in addition to taking their confidence onto the field, it's equally important to bond with the team on long road trips.

"We have team dinners, and yesterday we were able to go to a Marlins game," she said. "It's really fun to be able to do that with the team even though we can't go out for spring break."

Sulaski echoed these sentiments, saying, "We have a lot of team bonding, and we're around each other a lot, so we become close over these trips."

After the long road trip, WKU will be back at home on Tuesday to play Tennessee Tech, with another home game against Louisville on Wednesday.

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Freshman pitcher Brennan Pearson throws against Western Illinois University on Sunday at Nick Denes Field.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Perkins the latest WKU starter to go down

By KURT CARSON
sports@wkuherald.com

The Toppers can't seem to escape the injury bug, especially within the starting rotation. All three weekend starters have been injured at one point in the season.

Junior left-hander Tanner Perkins was the most recent victim as he left Friday's start against Western Illinois after just 2 1/3 innings with tightness in his forearm.

WKU Head Coach Matt Myers said he thinks Perkins will be "OK," but he didn't want to risk anything with Sun Belt Conference starting this Friday night.

Perkins, the team's No. 1 starter, came into the weekend with a 3.15 ERA while striking out 10 batters in 20 innings of work.

Myers said although injuries have hindered the Toppers from reaching their full potential, he will not use them as an excuse.

"It's been tough, but everybody has adversity, so you have to overcome it," Myers said. "We have other guys in the program that are good enough to win."

Both of the Toppers' other two weekend starters — sophomore right-hander Justin Hageman and junior left-hander Tim Bado — began the year with injuries that forced them to miss the opening series against Toledo.

Hageman and Bado made their starting debuts the ensuing weekend against Southern Illinois and have since started every weekend.

Wilcox, Hartle carrying offense

Sophomore first baseman Scott Wilcox and senior second baseman Ivan Hartle have carried much of the weight within the lineup

for WKU. Wilcox has had at least one hit in 14 of the Toppers' 15 games this season and is batting .352 after posting a .274 batting average last year.

He said his main strategy in his approach to the plate is to do whatever's best for the team at the time.

"The situation depicts how I approach the at-bat," Wilcox said. "Mostly I just try to get on base."

Both Wilcox and Hartle have been particularly good at drawing walks to get on base.

Wilcox has drawn 16 walks while Hartle has drawn 12.

Hartle had his biggest day at the plate in a 4-for-5 effort against Toledo on February 18 in a game in which he accumulated two doubles and two RBIs.

Both players have had five multi-hit games so far this season.

Defense not up to par

Coming into the season, Myers said defense would be one of WKU's key strengths.

However, the Toppers have been charged with at least one error in 12 of their 15 games so far this season.

The team was charged with four errors against Evansville on March 7, their highest total in a game this year.

Myers said he's disappointed that the defense has been lacking.

"We're not very good on defense," Myers said. "We're hesitant and afraid to be aggressive. It's disappointing, because our defense is creating some big innings for our opponents."

RECOVERS

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Tompkins said it was big for him to come out in control.

"I've had a few rough innings this season and they were due to lack of confidence," Tompkins said. "But I think I've found my confidence to where I can go in and produce right off the bat instead of having to settle in after a few wild pitches or walks."

Clay and Tompkins combined to throw 6 2/3 innings while allowing no runs on two hits.

Even though it wasn't exactly what he

expected, Myers said he was pleased to see both Clay and Tompkins step up.

"Austin Clay came in to adversity and competed his fanny off for us," Myers said. "Tompkins stepped up big because he took all the momentum out of their dugout and put it in ours."

After an 11-1 loss on Sunday in the series finale, Myers said the series win was nice but there's still work to be done.

"It's very important to get that," Myers said. "But we've got to play better if we have any chance in the Sun Belt."

WKU plays Butler at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Nick Denes Field before opening Sun Belt Conference play on Friday in Murfreesboro, Tenn., against Middle Tennessee State.



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It's that time of year again where everyone feels like they're a college basketball expert.

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But first, some rules:

-Each contestant is limited to ONE BRACKET.

-When entering, please provide all contact information that's requested (full name, email). That's the only way we'll be able to contact you if you win. If all the information requested isn't provided, your bracket will be disqualified.

-The contest is open to all current students and faculty members but excludes Student Publications employees. You must have a valid WKU email address and must be a current student or faculty member to participate. It's the only way we can hold people accountable for not submitting multiple brackets under different email addresses.

-You'll enter a final score for the championship game as a tie-breaker.

To enter, visit this URL — <http://wkuheraldbracketchallenge.mayhem.cbssports.com/e> — and enter the password "wkuherald12."

You'll be prompted to create a login name, which is free. From there, fill out your bracket and hope for the best.

The bracket pool is set up to reward you for picking upsets. If you choose a 12-seed to beat a 5-seed in the first round, you'll get one point for the correct pick and 12 points for picking the 12-seed, so you'll end up with 13 points for that pick.

You can view the full rules and scoring system online. CBS has a limit of 400 entries per pool. In the event that more than 400 entries are submitted, we will create a second pool to fit all the entries. The contestant with the most points wins.

The contest is set up to allow you to edit your picks until 10 a.m. Thursday when brackets will lock.

Good luck!

— Cole Claybourn

Cowles

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

"That was a factor," Bjork said of declining attendance. "When they run out of the tunnel, they need to be inspired by our crowd. That was difficult — watching that this season."

Assistant Camryn Whitaker, a former point guard under Cowles, has been tabbed by Bjork as the "point person" for the program while a coaching search takes place.

"We'll have her deal directly with our players, with our recruits, dealing with running the program," Bjork said.

Bjork said the team's other assistants, including former Warren Central High School boys' basketball coach Tim Riley, will maintain their current duties during the search.

Riley, Whitaker and other assistants spent the weekend in Diddle Arena scouting recruits at the Girls' Sweet 16 high school basketball state championships.

Cowles declined direct comment to the Herald.

However, she did send a prepared statement to the Bowling Green Daily News in which she thanked the community for "an incredible journey" during her 21 years with the program.

"I am extremely thankful for all the opportunities that WKU and the Lady Topper Basketball program have provided to me," Cowles said. "Once a HILLTOPPER, ALWAYS a HILLTOPPER!!!"

Cowles went on to list her accomplishments, which included a 199-199 record as head coach, two NCAA Tournament ap-

pearances and five WNIT appearances.

All seven of her postseason tournament appearances came in her first eight years as head coach.

In 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, her teams combined to go 24-38, marking the program's worst two-year stretch since the 1973-1974 and 1974-1975 teams combined to go 7-21.

WKU now begins a search for Cowles' replacement just weeks after finishing a men's basketball coaching search.

Whitaker and Riley have both been popular choices among fans for the position.

Whitaker came back to her alma mater in the summer of 2011 after a three-year stint as an assistant at Missouri State. While there, she oversaw the Lady Bears' recruiting efforts.

Riley is a well-known name locally, as he took Warren Central to eight Boys' Sweet 16 appearances in 14 years, winning the state championship in 2004. The 2011-2012 season was Riley's first as a college assistant.

Other candidates with WKU ties include Kentucky associate head coach Kyra Elzy and Louisville assistant Michelle Clark-Heard.

Elzy was a former assistant under Cowles, while Clark-Heard played for the Lady Toppers under WKU Hall of Fame coach Paul Sanderford.

However, Bjork said the search will not be limited to just those with WKU ties.

"You find the best person, and if they happen to have ties, that's great," he said. "We'll capitalize on that. But I think the best coach for our program is out there, and we will search nationally."

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End of an Era

Cowles fired by WKU after 9-21 season

By BRAD STEPHENS
sports@wkuherald.com

For two decades, Mary Taylor Cowles has been one of the faces of WKU women's basketball.

The former Kentucky Miss Basketball played for the Lady Toppers from 1987-1991, playing forward for four NCAA Tournament teams.

She came back to WKU as an assistant, then took over as head coach in 2002.

But on Thursday, it was determined her 9-21 season in 2011-2012 would be her last.

Cowles was fired on Thursday, ending a 10-year run as Lady Topper head coach and 21-year run associated with the program.

Athletics Director Ross Bjork said the decision was made because of on-court performance and declining attendance.

"We weren't performing at the level that we needed to and that we expect and that our facilities and history can support," Bjork said. "...Our history of attendance and packing the arena ... is something that we've been lacking, in terms of energy."

WKU's 21 losses this season were the most in a single season in school history.

Meanwhile, the Lady Toppers drew an average of 1,153 fans to Diddle Arena for their 13 home games, the team's lowest attendance average since WKU began keeping detailed records in 1993.

SEE COWLES, PAGE 8



Above: Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles answers questions after WKU's loss to MTSU on March 4 in Hot Springs, Ark. WKU lost 65-57.

Left: Cowles yells at her team during the game.

PHOTOS BY JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD

Nov. 22	Dec. 7	Feb. 18
WKU blows a 14-point lead and is defeated 86-66 by Wright State in Diddle Arena. The loss drops the Lady Toppers to 0-4 on the year.	Two days after a 15-point win over rival Louisiana Tech, WKU loses 69-59 to Tennessee Tech. After the game, Cowles compares her team to "scared babies."	WKU loses 70-33 on the road to South Alabama. The 33-point mark the team's fewest points in one game since 1974.
Feb. 26	March. 4	March. 8
WKU loses at home 77-62 to Middle Tennessee State in front of a crowd largely full of Lady Raider fans. After the game, Athletics Director Ross Bjork says confidence must be restored in the program.	WKU is eliminated from the Sun Belt Tournament with a 65-57 second round loss to MTSU. The loss is the Lady Toppers' 10th straight to the rival Lady Raiders.	Cowles is fired after 10 years as WKU head coach. Assistant Camryn Whitaker is named "point person" for the program until a new head coach is hired.

BASEBALL

WKU recovers from 'embarrassing' loss

By KURT CARSON
sports@wkuherald.com

The Toppers exited the dugout quickly and with their heads down on Wednesday night after a 7-2 loss to Evansville.

WKU's play was described as "embarrassing" by Head Coach Matt Myers after a game in which the team was charged with four errors.

That loss came just three days after the Toppers won their first weekend series of the season against Kent State, a team Myers said could be the best opponent they play all year.

But this weekend, WKU bounced back to win two of three games, including its first back-to-back wins, at Nick Denes Field against Western Illinois in its final non-conference weekend series.

Junior left-hander Tim Bado said it was "huge" to get another series victory.

"We're starting to put it together," Bado said.

WKU notched its first two wins with

the help of a couple of relievers who had been struggling as of late — sophomore left-hander Austin Clay and freshman left-hander Ian Tompkins.

Junior left-hander Tanner Perkins was pulled from Friday's matchup with forearm tightness after just 2 1/3 innings.

The Toppers relied on Clay to step up and provide solid long-relief from the bullpen. He pitched 3 2/3 innings while allowing no runs on one hit and making the way for a 7-2 WKU win.

On Saturday, WKU trailed 4-0 after starting sophomore right-hander Justin Hageman stepped off the mound after five innings.

Tompkins came in and held the Leathernecks scoreless for three straight innings while the bats came to life on the way to a 9-4 victory.

He came in to the game struggling with command, having walked 10 batters in just 12 2/3 innings. However, he issued no walks on Saturday.

SEE RECOVERS, PAGE 7

SOFTBALL

Lady Toppers go 7-4 over spring break

By HASANI GRAYSON
sports@wkuherald.com

The 11-game road trip WKU took over spring break has players and coaches talking less about strategy and more about chemistry.

WKU (17-7) had a good showing on its long road trip through Georgia and Florida, going 7-4. But Head Coach Tyra Perry said there were some times when they could have executed better.

One of the four losses on the trip came on Friday in Boca Raton, Fla., at the hands of Minnesota with a final score of 1-0, in nine innings.

"We had a lot of opportunities to win that game," Perry said.

Sophomore pitcher Emily Rousseau picked up the loss despite pitching a complete game with 10 strikeouts.

Perry said she can tell Rousseau (8-3, 2.01 ERA) is getting closer to performing at her peak.

"With every game, every week of practice, she gets closer to her full potential," she said. "She's still not

there, but she's making strides in that direction."

Despite losing their next game on March 10, they ended the road trip on a high note, beating Sun Belt Conference opponent Florida Atlantic 9-3.

Sophomore infielder Amanda Thomas said she's happy with where the team is despite the ups and downs on the road.

"We're very confident in each other, ourselves and our coaches," she said.

She went on to say that the team's confidence got a boost due to beating league opponent FAU three times.

Junior pitcher and infielder Mallorie Sulaski said confidence also plays a big part in how solid WKU's defense has looked this season.

"It's really great for our team that we can be confident in knowing that we can get everybody out," she said.

Sulaski said the solid defense allows them to focus on getting hits so they can put runs on the board.

SEE BREAK, PAGE 6